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FEBRUARY 2.

ARTHUR ERWIN BROWN, Sc.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Twenty-eight persons present.

The Publication Committee reported that a paper entitled "Action of Chemical Solutions on Bud Development: An Experimental Study of Acclimatization," by John W. Harshberger, Ph.D., had been presented for publication (January 28, 1909).

THOMAS H. MONTGOMERY, Ph.D., made a communication on the architecture of spiders. (No abstract.)

FEBRUARY 16.

The President, SAMUEL G. DIXON, M.D., in the Chair.

One hundred and thirty-nine persons present.

The Publication Committee announced the reception of a paper entitled "An Orthopterological Reconnaissance of the Southwestern United States: Part II, New Mexico and Western Texas," by James A. G. Rehn and Morgan Hebard (February 4).

The special business of the meeting being the commemoration of the centenary of the birth of CHARLES DARWIN and of the fiftieth year of the publication of the ORIGIN OF SPECIES, the President spoke of the influence of the doctrines of Natural Selection and Evolution on the development of thought and the progress of humanity.

DR. ARTHUR ERWIN BROWN referred to the fact that the Academy had been the first society in America to recognize the importance of Darwin's work and quoted from his letter to Lyell of May 8, 1860, in which he says: "This morning I got a letter from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, announcing that I am elected a Correspondent. . . . It shows that some naturalists there do not think me such a scientific profligate as many think me here."¹

¹ *Life and Letters of Charles Darwin*, including an Autobiographical Chapter. Edited by his Son, Francis Darwin. 1887. Vol. II, p. 100.

Dr. Brown also read a letter addressed by Darwin to Dr. Joseph Leidy under date of March 4, 1860, acknowledging receipt of publications, expressing appreciation of Dr. Leidy's paleontological work, and returning thanks for his support of the doctrine of Natural Selection.

EDWIN G. CONKLIN, PH.D., then read a memoir of Darwin, dwelling on the importance of his work in science and on the relation of the doctrine of Natural Selection to modern thought.

A collection of Darwin's works and his letter of acknowledgment of election as Correspondent of the Academy were exhibited.

The following were accepted for publication: